1. A method for distributing a print task among a plurality of printing devices, said method comprising:
initiating a print task;
transmitting said print task to a print system component;
dividing and distributing said print task among a plurality of printing devices with said print system component; and
providing load-balancing between said plurality of printing devices.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said dividing and said distributing comprise job splitting.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said dividing and said distributing comprise copy splitting.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said providing load-balancing comprises obtaining printer capability data from said plurality of printing devices.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said printer capability data comprises a rate at which at least one of said plurality of printing devices prints pages.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said dividing, said distributing and said providing load-balancing comprise dividing said print task among said plurality of printing devices according to the speed of each printing device.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising querying at least one printing device to determine at least one of its capabilities.

8. The method of claim 1 further comprising querying at least one printing device to determine its availability.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said dividing, said distributing and said providing load-balancing comprise dividing said print task, when said print task comprises multiple copies of a print job, into sets of copies of said print job, each of said sets comprising a number of copies proportional to the number of pages per minute (PPM) each printer can print.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein said dividing, said distributing and said providing load-balancing comprise dividing said print task, when said print task comprises multiple and distinct print jobs, into sets of distinct print jobs, each of said sets comprising a number of pages proportional to the number of pages per minute (PPM) each printer can print.

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11. A method for distributing a print task among a plurality of printing devices, said method comprising:

initiating a print task;

transmitting said print task to a print system component;

determining said printing devices' capabilities; and

dividing and distributing said print task among said plurality of printing devices in proportion to the capabilities of said printing devices, using said print system component.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said determining comprises querying a local printer through a system bus.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein said determining comprises querying a network printer using a network communications protocol.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein said determining comprises querying a printer driver.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein said determining comprises accessing a printer attribute registry.

16. The method of claim 11 wherein said print system component comprises a print processor.

17. The method of claim 11 wherein said determining comprises estimating the capability of some of said plurality of printing devices.

18. A method for distributing a print task among a plurality of
    printing devices, said method comprising:
initiating a print task;
transmitting said print task to a print system component;
determining said printing devices' capabilities; and
dividing and distributing said print task among said plurality of printing
devices in proportion to the throughput of each of said printing devices,
using said print system component.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein said throughput comprises a
    printer's speed in PPM.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein a determination of said
    throughput comprises a determination of a printing device's
    disk storage capacity.

21. The method of claim 18 wherein a determination of said
    throughput comprises an analysis of a printing device's
    rasterization pipeline.

22. The method of claim 18 wherein a determination of said
    throughput comprises an evaluation of alternative rasterization
    methods and a selection of the fastest method for a specific
    print task.

23.   A printing system component for distributing a print task among a plurality of printing devices, said component comprising:

a determiner for determining printing device capabilities;

5   a divider for dividing a print task into print sets, said sets being proportioned according to the capabilities of each printing device in said plurality of printing devices; and

a distributor for distributing said sets to each printing device in said plurality of printing devices.

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24. A computer-readable medium comprising instructions for distributing a print task among a plurality of printing devices, said instructions comprising the acts of:

initiating a print task;

transmitting said print task to a print system component;

determining said printing devices' capabilities; and

dividing and distributing said print task among said plurality of printing devices in proportion to the capabilities of said printing devices, using said print system component.

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25. A computer data signal embodied in an electronic transmission, said signal having the function of distributing a print task among a plurality of printing devices, said signal comprising instructions for:

initiating a print task;

transmitting said print task to a print system component;

determining said printing devices' capabilities; and

dividing and distributing said print task among said plurality of printing devices in proportion to the capabilities of said printing devices, using said print system component.